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The Nile is the principal river of Egypt, and is of such importance to the inhabitants that in olden times it was the subject of actual worship. Besides serving the ordinary purpose of drainage, it is the water supply of the country, and many of the inhabitants have to rely upon its periodical floodings for the proper fertilization of the soil. The water supply for household and drinking purposes is always fetched by the women during the cool evening time, the sun being too hot at midday for exertion.

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